

From: Joel Markwell
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: DOJ and Microsoft: A Failure to Meet Your Responsibilities to Your Real Bosses

I am incredibly disappointed in the abdication by the Justice Department in the Microsoft Antitrust Case.

Microsoft is one of the most aggressive anti-competitive companies in our history and has been proven to be so over-and-over. The list is long and much of their wrongdoing was not even presented at court. Their actions towards lesser companies have stifled creativity, crushed smaller, more flexible and ultimately more consumer-friendly companies by simply threatening to enter their market and have for years they have produced a product that is inferior in almost every way to every one of their competitors and they can only do so because of their size.

No financial backer would ever dare subsidize the creation of a new word-processor to challenge Word or spreadsheet to challenge Excel, yet smaller companies do so every day with intelligence and creativity only to be run out of business by Microsoft. Developers fear MS to the extent that I have seen them refuse to criticize MS on camera for fear of being hurt by MS, yet off camera they clearly hate the company and the product.

Because of their iron grip on the computer space, MS has almost no incentive to make their products more secure and often fail to release security patches in a timely manner and often release products they know to be buggy because there simply is no broad-based alternative out there for the consumer and server market in their space.

Bill Gates and now Ballmer have both shown their disdain for the American public and the US Justice Department publicly by their words and behavior and yet the Justice Department has completely abrogated their responsibilities to the American consumer, I assume, at the "suggestion" of the Bush administration.

The biggest loss to the American consumer has been the Republican Congresses consistent failure to agree to even reasonable campaign finance reform and so long as large monopoly corporations like Microsoft continue to own America's politicians, we working American will continue to be unrepresented in the halls of justice and the halls of Congress.

Forcing Microsoft to act as a more responsible and competitive American company, even to the extent of breaking it up will not hurt the US economy. The effect of forcing MS to toe the line or even to break it up would be a breath of fresh air to a computer industry strangling in Microsoft's grip. How much stronger would the US economy be if MS were not sitting astride it?

The Justice Department doesn't worry Bill Gates, because he might as well

own you as he does everything else, given the present circumstances.

Sincerely,

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